



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : the "Friends of the Presidency" Working Party
to : Permanent Representatives Committee / Council
Subject : Draft Council conclusions on the integrated maritime policy

1. On 19 November 2008 the Presidency transmitted to delegations draft conclusions which aim to take forward work on the integrated maritime policy.
2. These draft conclusions were examined by the "Friends of the Presidency" Working Party at its meeting on 26 November 2008. The text as it results from this examination is set out in the annex.
3. The Committee of the Permanent Representatives is invited to suggest to the Council to adopt the conclusions as an "A" item at a forthcoming meeting.

**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS
INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY**

1. The Council, recalling the guidelines defined by the European Council on 14 December 2007, welcomes the work initiated on the basis of the European Commission's contributions¹, with a view to implementing an integrated European maritime policy. It confirms that an integrated approach to maritime issues constitutes a major objective, since the synergies, the coherence and the added value of sectoral action undertaken by the European Union need to be reinforced by being integrated into a comprehensive vision of the seas, oceans and coastlines, taking account of distinctive regional features and in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

2. Within that framework, the Council welcomes the progress recorded on several sectoral projects related to maritime issues, in particular:
 - the launch of the reform of the common fisheries policy and the adoption of conclusions on the Commission's communication on the role of the common fisheries policy in the implementation of an ecosystem-approach to the management of the marine environment;
 - the progress made towards the adoption of the maritime safety package;
 - the conclusions on the European strategy for marine and maritime research;
 - the conclusions on the GMES initiative for marine and maritime sciences;

¹ – COM(2006) 275, Green Paper "*Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union: A European Vision for the Oceans and Seas*", 7 June 2006;
– COM(2007) 575, Blue Book "*An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union*" and Action Plan, 10 October 2007;
– COM(2008) 395, Guidelines for an Integrated Approach to Maritime Policy, 26 June 2008.

- the proceedings in progress on the proposal for a Directive on pollution caused by vessels and the introduction of penalties for infringements;
- the proceedings in progress on the proposal for a Directive on the implementation of the agreement concluded by the European Community Ship-owners' Association (ECSA) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) on the implementation of the 2006 Maritime Labour Convention,2006 and amending Directive 1999/63/ EC.

It stresses that it is in the interest of the Member States to continue their collaboration on all those policies. The Council calls for rapid progress on these dossiers. Moreover, it encourages the Member States to begin the work required for the implementation of the framework Marine Strategy Framework Directive¹, which constitutes the environmental pillar of integrated maritime policy.

3. The Council also welcomes the launch of the Atalanta naval operation in support of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1816, 1814 and 1838, that will help improve maritime security, as well as initiatives aimed at strengthening the coordination in the fight against piracy off the coast of Somalia.
4. The Council is pleased at the commitment of the European Commission, the European agencies, and in particular the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (FRONTEX), the Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Defence Agency (EDA), and the centres for the co-ordination of the fight against drug trafficking – the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC-N), the Anti-Drug Coordination Centre for the Mediterranean – CECLAD-Med) and the coordination center against drug trafficking in the Eastern Mediterranean, to improvement of Europe's maritime surveillance capabilities. It recognises the important role which may be played by navies in the field of maritime surveillance and maritime security in general.

¹ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, pp. 19-40).

5. The Council also emphasises that a cross-cutting approach to governance, surveillance and knowledge issues is advisable. In this connection:
- the Council believes that more in-depth reflection at Community and international levels must be given to governance issues in order to ensure the implementation of a long-term integrated maritime policy. It welcomes the progress made on integrated maritime governance and invites the Member States to promote best practices in that area on the basis of the debate opened by the Commission's "Guidelines for an Integrated Approach to Maritime Policy";
 - the Council underlines the comprehensive and integrating nature of surveillance, in all its components, ranging from the surveillance of human activities to the observation of the marine environment. It specifies that it is necessary to step up cooperation, coherence, coordination and interoperability in this area in the Member States as well as between Member States and between the different actors involved, while seeking to optimise cost-effectiveness, in accordance with the diversity of procedures of the different European policies. It invites the European agencies to pursue their cooperation in this field, as well as, in due course, with non-EU countries;
 - the Council stresses the importance of developing, in cooperation with existing networks, knowledge and observation networks in marine environments, in particular to support the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. It recalls the contributions of the integrated maritime policy to the Lisbon Strategy, in particular through the development of the concept of maritime clusters, as regards sustainable development based on knowledge of environments and requests Member States to continue to cooperate in the research field, in line with the European Commission's communication entitled "A European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research"¹.

¹ COM(2008)534 Final "A European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research – A coherent European Research Area framework in support of a sustainable use of oceans and seas", 3 September 2008.

6. The Council takes note of the recent meeting of the High-Level Focal Points at which, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, there was political discussion of the major lines of integrated maritime policy, in particular its cross-cutting components, for example governance, surveillance and knowledge. It encourages forthcoming presidencies to continue discussions on the promotion of an integrated maritime policy on that basis.
7. With a view to European Maritime Day, based on the tripartite agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission signed in Strasbourg on 20 May 2008, the Council encourages activities to emphasise the importance of the sea in the Member States and in coastal areas. The Council thanks Italy for its offer to host the European Maritime Day Conference on 19 and 20 May 2009. The Council invites the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, to organise that conference henceforth, in a different Member State every year.
8. The Council welcomes the presentation of the Commission communications entitled "Offshore Wind Energy"¹, "The European Union and the Arctic region"² and "Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning"³. In this connection, it stresses the importance of offshore production of renewable energy, including tidal power, for achieving the objective of making renewable energy account for 20 % of consumption. It also welcomes the Commission's intention of presenting a communication on the strategic options for European shipping and for the European maritime transport system in the horizon 2008-2018 and a communication on a Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. On the last point, the Council notes the importance of the future strategy for the Baltic Sea for the integrated maritime policy of the European Union.

¹ COM(2008) 768 "Offshore Wind Energy: Action needed to deliver on the Energy Policy Objectives for 2020 and beyond", 13 November 2008.

² COM(2008) 763 final "The European Union and the Arctic region", 20 November 2008.

³ COM(2008) 791 final "Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning: Achieving Common Principles in the EU", 25 November 2008.

The Council also invites the Commission to continue the implementation of the action plan, in particular concerning the integrated management of the European maritime space and a significant pilot project for surveillance in the Mediterranean, with a view to preparing the progress report to be presented to the European Council at the end of 2009.
